Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Phoenix, Arizona

Profile of Drug Indicators

March 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Phoenix, Arizona

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics1

- > Population (2000 Census): 1,321,045
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 55.8% white; 4.8% black/African American; 1.6% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.9% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% other; 1.6% two or more races; 34.1 Hispanic/Latino (of any race)
- ➤ Phoenix is located in Maricopa County.

Politics

- ➤ Mayor: Skip Rimsza²
- City Council Members (District): Dave Siebert (1); Peggy Neely (2); Peggy Bilsten (3); Phillip B. Gordon (4); Vice Mayor Claude Mattox (5); Greg Stanton (6); Doug Lingner (7); Michael Johnson (8)³
- ➤ Chief of Police: Harold L. Hurtt⁴
- ➤ Maricopa County Sheriff: Joe Arpaio⁵

Programs/Initiatives

- ➤ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁶
 The Arizona Partnership was designated in 1990 as part of the Southwest Border HIDTA. This region has 350 miles of largely unsecured international border. The Arizona Partnership is responsible for seven Arizona counties, including Maricopa.
- ➤ Crime Free Multi-Housing Program⁷
 The Phoenix Crime Free Multi-Housing Program was designed to help residents, owners, and managers of rental property keep drugs and other illegal activities off their property. The Phoenix Police Department offers free seminars about the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program to those interested.
- Methamphetamine Community Awareness Program⁸
 The Phoenix Police Department Methamphetamine Community Awareness Program "What's Cookin' in Your Neighborhood?" was initiated to educate the public about the methamphetamine drug problem in neighborhoods and the city. The program produced an educational video about how to detect a "meth" lab and how to respond.

Federal Funding

- ➤ Drug Free Communities Support Program grantees in Phoenix:9
 - FY 2002: no grantees in Phoenix
 - FY 2001: \$100,000 to the Wheel Council/Hamilton Storytelling for Empowerment Coalition
 - FY 2000: \$100,000 to the American Indian Prevention Coalition, Inc.
 - FY 1999 and FY 1998: no grantees in Phoenix
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹⁰

Two sites in Phoenix have received Federal funding and official recognition as Weed and Seed sites.

- FY 2001 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds received in Phoenix:¹¹
 - Center for Mental Health Services:
 - \$100,000 to the Arizona Department of Health Services. Project period: 9/30/01-9/29/04.
 - \$150,000 to the Arizona Department of Health Services. Project period: 4/1/01-3/31/02.
 - \$1,937,167 to the Arizona Department of Health Services. Project period: 9/30/99-8/31/05.
 - \$418,369 to Osborn School District #8. Project period: 9/30/01-9/29/04.
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention:
 - \$499,588 to the Native American Community Health Center. Project period: 9/30/01-9/29/04.
 - \$96,500 to the Phoenix Children's Hospital. Project period: 9/30/00-9/29/02.
 - \$290,393 to Wheel Council, Inc. Project period: 9/30/01-9/29/04.
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment:
 - \$470,224 to the Maricopa County Adult Probation. Project period: 9/30/00-9/29/03.
 - \$746,000 to the American Indian Prevention Coalition. Project period: 9/30/01-9/29/04.
 - \$500,000 to the City of Phoenix. Project period: 9/30/01-9/29/04.
- > FY 2002 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant awards received in Phoenix: 12
 - \$194,190 awarded to the City of Phoenix
 - \$250,000 awarded to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant amount received in Phoenix:¹³
 - \$426,742 to the Superior Court of Arizona/Family Court Administration (to be used for drug court implementation)
- ➤ Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant amount received in Phoenix in FY 2001:¹⁴
 - \$123,711 to Fillmore Investors Limited
 - \$124,968 to Casa Madrid Apartments
 - \$123,800 to The Broadway House Corporation
 - \$124,722 to Paradise Shadows Limited Partnership

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- ➤ In 2002, there were 8,461 drug-crimes known to Phoenix police. 15
- ➤ During 2001, there were nearly 3,000 drug offenses in Phoenix that involved opium. ¹⁶

Number of Drug Offenses Known to Police, by Drug Type, Phoenix, 1997-2001

Drug Type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Opium	3,213	4,234	4,530	3,511	2,975
Marijuana	3,525	3,469	3,089	3,119	2,653
Synthetic	1,590	1,536	1,322	1,425	1,485
Dangerous drugs	112	115	181	181	166

➤ During 2002, there were 240 homicides known to the police in Phoenix. In 2001, there were 247 homicides known to police. 17

Number of Offenses Known to Police, Phoenix, 1998-2002

Offense	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Homicide	226	250	169	247	240
Sexual assault	778	803	678	665	612
Robbery	3,720	3,703	3,589	4,232	3,550
Ag. assault	6,284	5,632	5,320	5,578	5,203
Burglary	38,955	36,463	36,443	37,220	38,554
Theft	39,252	31,065	30,681	31,403	31,097
Auto theft	23,116	22,997	24,803	29,042	33,654
Arson	61	42	18	13	103

➤ Data collected from Phoenix adult arrestees in 2001 indicate that 69% of adult male and 72.3% of adult female arrestees tested positive for an illegal drug at arrest. ¹⁸

Percent of Adult Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, Phoenix, 2001

Drug Type	Males	Females
Cocaine	27.2%	31.6%
Opiates	6.2	6.3
Marijuana	39.7	26.5
Methamphetamine	25.3	32.3
PCP	1.5	1.7
Any of the above drugs	69.0	72.3
Multiple drugs	26.3	22.9

Approximately 16.7% of adult male arrestees reported using crack cocaine within the past month. Among the arrestees reporting past month crack cocaine use, they reported using the substance an average of 7.9 days within the month.¹⁹

Adult Male Arrestee Past Drug Use, Phoenix, 2001

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marij.	Meth.	Opiates
Past 7 days	14.6%	8.5%	39%	20.5%	4.5%
Past 30 days	16.7%	11.8%	45.6%	24.3%	5.5%
Past year	21.9%	18.9%	51.7%	28.9%	6.8%
Avg. # of days used in month	7.9	3.5	9.9	9.6	10.3

Approximately 37.2% of adult female arrestees in Phoenix reported past month marijuana use. They used the substance an average of 6.6 days within the month.²⁰

Adult Female Arrestee Past Drug Use, Phoenix, 2001

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marij.	Meth.	Opiates
Past 7 days	21.9%	6.9%	12.7%	24.5%	3.7%
Past 30 days	23.3%	9.6%	37.2%	28.9%	4.8%
Past year	29.2%	15.7%	46.2%	34.2%	7%
Avg. # of days used in month	11.7	3.6	6.6	9.6	7.7

Drugs

> Cocaine

Powder cocaine is available throughout the Phoenix area. Wholesale cocaine is typically sold in powder form in kilogram and half kilogram pressed bricks, while retail cocaine is sold in gram to ounce quantities. Crack cocaine is often held loose in a person's pocket or mouth or is packaged in small, plastic zipper bags. In the second half of 2001, a gram of powder cocaine sold for \$80.²¹ Crack purity levels in Phoenix range from 50-90%.²²

> Heroin

While Mexican black tar heroin is the predominate type of heroin found in Phoenix, Mexican brown heroin has also reportedly been available. From July to October 2001, a gram of heroin sold for \$70-\$100 in Phoenix. ²³ Kilogram quantities of Mexican black tar heroin sold for \$32,000-\$40,000. The heroin purity level in Phoenix averages 42.3%. ²⁴

Marijuana

In Phoenix, an ounce of marijuana costs between \$75 and \$150 and a pound sells for \$500-\$750.²⁵

> Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine found in Phoenix is often packaged in plastic bags. Crystal methamphetamine ("ice") is also available in the Phoenix area. The methamphetamine found in this city costs around \$50 per gram and \$14,500 per kilogram. Methamphetamine ounce prices in Phoenix range from \$300 to \$600. Mexican methamphetamine found in Phoenix ranges in purity from 20-40%, while "ice" ranges in purity from 90-95%. Mexican methamphetamine found in Phoenix ranges in purity from 20-40%, while "ice" ranges in purity from 90-95%.

Club Drugs

Wholesale MDMA prices in the Phoenix area range from \$5.50 to \$10.50 per tablet. The tablets are then sold for \$15-\$30 retail.²⁹ PMA is reportedly being sold in the city as ecstasy. GHB is also available in Phoenix and sells for \$5-\$10 per dose (one teaspoon) and \$425 for twenty-five pounds. LSD is "readily available" in Phoenix and sells for \$4 per dose and \$140-\$150 for a bottle containing approximately 90 doses.³⁰

> Other Drugs

The Phoenix DEA Diversion Group reports that the most commonly abused pharmaceutical drugs include the following: Vicodin, Lortab, Percocet, OxyContin, benzodiazepines, and codeine products. Phoenix sources indicate that 40 milligrams of OxyContin sell for \$20-\$25 per tablet; Percocet sells for \$5 per tablet; and Vicodin sells for \$5 per tablet.³¹

Juveniles

As part of the 2002 Arizona Youth Survey, 3,354 students from Maricopa County were surveyed. Approximately 30% of the high school seniors surveyed reported using a drug within the past month.³²

Percent of Students Reporting Past Month Substance Use, Maricopa Co., 2002

Substance	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
Alcohol	33.5%	48.2%	60.5%
Cigarettes	8.8	18.4	23.1
Smokeless tobacco	3.0	3.5	4.1
Marijuana	13.2	22.4	27.0
Inhalants	7.2	3.4	2.2
Hallucinogens	1.4	3.3	3.0
Cocaine	2.4	3.7	3.9
Amphetamines	0.9	2.7	2.2
Steroids	1.0	1.5	0.8
Heroin	1.0	1.3	1.1
Sedatives	1.1	2.8	4.0
Ecstasy	3.3	2.0	3.5
Any drug	18.9	25.4	29.7

➤ More than half (51.2%) of the high school seniors reported using marijuana during their lifetimes.³³

Percent of Students Reporting Lifetime Substance Use, Maricopa County, 2002

Substance	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
Alcohol	54.8%	71.7%	80.3%
Cigarettes	36.9	47.4	60.5
Smokeless tobacco	23.4	20.4	21.1
Marijuana	22.7	40.9	51.2
Inhalants	12.2	10.0	9.6
Hallucinogens	2.4	8.4	13.9
Cocaine	4.2	7.5	11.8
Amphetamines	2.6	6.3	8.3
Steroids	2.1	2.9	3.1
Heroin	1.7	2.9	3.9
Sedatives	2.1	6.1	8.5
Ecstasy	5.0	8.2	13.8
Any drug	29.4	43.7	52.8

➤ Approximately 24% (24.4%) of Maricopa County seniors, 18.9% of tenth graders, and 13.7% of eighth graders reported being drunk or high at school within the past year.³⁴

- ➤ More than 10% (10.2%) of Maricopa County seniors, 9.6% of tenth graders, and 5.3% of eighth graders reported that they have sold illegal drugs within the past year.³⁵
- ➤ In Phoenix during 1999, 68.5% of juvenile male detainees and 45.5% of juvenile female detainees tested positive for drugs. ³⁶
- ➤ Approximately 87% of the juvenile males and 80% of the juvenile females who committed drug offenses tested positive for drugs.³⁷

Percent of Juvenile Detainees Testing Positive for Drugs, by Offense, Phoenix, 1999

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Offense	Coca	ine	Mari	juana	Me	eth	Any	Drug
	M	\mathbf{F}	M	\mathbf{F}	M	\mathbf{F}	M	\mathbf{F}
Violent	12.1	0.0	51.7	34.6	5.2	12.0	57.8	34.6
Property	15.7	0.0	63.6	35.7	4.1	0.0	69.4	35.7
Drug	32.3	40.0	75.8	60.0	6.5	10.0	87.1	80.0
Sales	69.2	0.0	53.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	92.3	0.0
Possession	28.1	40.0	75.4	60.0	7.0	10.0	86.0	80.0
Other	15.9	7.4	61.5	40.7	6.0	9.4	69.2	46.3

Enforcement

- ➤ Southwest Border HIDTA/Arizona Partnership Initiatives found in Phoenix:³⁸
 - HIDTA Enforcement Agencies Task Force members of this task force, which is collocated in Phoenix, Tucson, and Yuma, apprehend fugitives in order to disrupt narcotics smuggling, distribution, money laundering, and street gang activities.
 - Joint Drug Intelligence Group members of this task force collect, evaluate, analyze, and disseminate information concerning drug trafficking organizations; provide strategic intelligence support against major criminal conspiracies; and support historical conspiracy prosecutions on significant enterprises operating in Arizona and the southwest border.
 - Metro Intelligence Support and Technical Investigative Center members of this task force form drug squads to conduct long-term, complex investigations targeting regional, national, and international drug trafficking organizations.
 - Phoenix Financial Task Force members of this task force conduct long term financial investigations in order to dismantle drug trafficking and money laundering and transportation organizations operating in the region.
- > Drug Enforcement Bureau³⁹
 - The Drug Enforcement Bureau of the Phoenix Police Department is responsible for the investigation and suppression of illegal drugs in Phoenix. This bureau is also involved in the interdiction of drug trafficking through the Sky Harbor International Airport and shipping facilities throughout the city.
- Commercial Narcotics Interdiction Program⁴⁰ Administered by the Phoenix Police Department, this task force is made up of Federal, State, and local officers organized to identify, arrest, and prosecute drug traffickers using commercial transportation and air freight/parcel companies to transport drugs and money for drug purchases.

Forensic Analysis Program⁴¹
Administered by the Phoenix Police Department, the Forensic Analysis Program provides Phoenix and the Commercial Interdiction task force members with scientific support required for efficient court adjudication of drug-related cases. During FY 2002, the Phoenix Police Department Laboratory received 7,590 drug samples for analysis, an average of 633 samples per month. More than 22,000 analyses of the samples were made during FY 2002.

Number of Drug Analyses by Forensic Analysis Program, Phoenix, FY 1988-2002

	FY 2002	FY 1988-FY 2002
Cocaine	6,260	104,671
Cannabis	9,784	93,711
Other controlled substances	6,650	90,348
Total analyses	22,694	288,729

As of October 31, 2001, there were 3,593 full-time law enforcement employees in Phoenix 42

Trafficking and Seizures

- ➤ Phoenix is a primary distribution center and drug transit area because of its close proximity and easy access to the Arizona-Sonora, Mexico border. Multi-ton quantities of cocaine and marijuana and increasingly large quantities of methamphetamine and heroin are smuggled into the city for eventual transportation and distribution throughout the country. 43
- ➤ The DEA Phoenix Division seized 51.8 kilograms of heroin during FY 2001.⁴⁴
- ➤ During the second half of FY 2001, the DEA seized 83 methamphetamine labs in the Phoenix area. 45
- During FY 2001, the Commercial Narcotics Interdiction Program seized almost 7,000 pounds of cannabis. 46

Seizures Made by the Commercial Narcotics Interdiction Program, FY 1988-2001

	FY 2001	FY 1988-2001
Cocaine (ounces)	2,019	8,292
Cannabis (pounds)	6,787	42,966
Cannabis (plants)	0	107
Heroin (grams)	65	3,650
Amphetamines/meth (grams)	3,052	86,870
Other drugs (dosage units)	8,697	812,309
Estimated value of assets seized	\$3,783,251	\$21,871,536

Courts

➤ Drug Courts⁴⁷

As of January 8, 2003, there were three drug courts in Phoenix that have been operating for more than two years and one drug court that has recently been implemented. There are no additional drug courts being planned in Phoenix.

➤ Maricopa County Attorney's Office Special Crimes, Gang, Homicide, Trial and Drug Diversion Bureaus⁴⁸

The primary objective of this unit is to coordinate and cooperate with all county law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies to increase the apprehension and conviction of drug offenders, and seize forfeitable assets. This unit focuses on major, multi-jurisdictional offenders, increased asset seizures, reduction in local user demand for drugs and enhanced operational effectiveness. Since FY 1991, this unit has concluded 79,358 drug cases.

Maricopa County Attorney's Office Prosecution Activities, FY 1991-2002

	FY 2002	FY 1991-2002
Total cases concluded	12,712	79,358
Number of convictions		
Felony	8,848	50,738
Misdemeanor	0	6,508
Undesignated	502	2,486
Number of sentences		
Prison	1,479	9,018
Jail/Jail and probation	1,911	11,708
Probation	5,903	27,329

Corrections

- ➤ During 2001, the average daily inmate population at the Maricopa County jail was 7,167. This is a 53% increase from 1990.⁴⁹
- ➤ Approximately 112,494 inmates were processed at the Maricopa County jail during 2001. ⁵⁰

Treatment

- ➤ Data for adult male arrestees in Phoenix for 2001 indicate that 9.1% received drug treatment in the year prior to their arrest.⁵¹
- ➤ Data for adult female arrestees in Phoenix for 2001 indicate that 10.2% received drug treatment in the year prior to their arrest.⁵²
- Phoenix's John C. Lincoln Hospital is the only facility in Arizona that provides Ultra Rapid Opiate Detoxification. This approach allows patients to undergo treatment in 4-8 hours while anesthetized.⁵³

Consequences of Use

- ➤ Preliminary estimates for January to June 2002 indicate that there were 5,055 drug-related episodes reported to the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) by emergency departments (ED) in Phoenix. During full year 2001, there were 10,084 drug-related episodes.⁵⁴
- ➤ In the drug-related episodes from January to June 2002, cocaine was mentioned 788 times. During full year 2001, ED staff mentioned cocaine 1,752 times. ⁵⁵

Drug-Related ED Episodes and Mentions, Phoenix, 1998-June 2002

Drug Type	Full Year 1998	Full Year 1999	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	JanJune 2002
Alcohol-in-combination	2,168	1,915	2,303	2,627	1004
Cocaine	1,486	1,877	1,775	1,752	788
Heroin	873	839	841	777	298
Marijuana	727	1,028	1,073	1,284	609
Amphetamines	362	519	661	888	676
Methamphetamine	446	341	600	604	224
Misc. hallucinogens	3	71	53	25	13
MDMA	2	20	76	96	23
Ketamine		4	14	4	7
LSD	99	156	135	62	6
PCP	46	39	47	61	32
GHB	2	17	16	19	7
Flunitrazepam	0	1			0
Inhalants	8	14	7	4	
Combinations NTA*	9	6	7	7	4
Total drug episodes	7,058	8,291	9,072	10,084	5,055
Total drug mentions	12,285	14,044	15,428	17,805	8,603

^{*} NTA = Not tabulated above

From January to May 2001, the Maricopa County Medical Examiner's Office reported 49 methamphetamine-related deaths in Phoenix. During full year 2000, there were 105 methamphetamine-related deaths reported in Phoenix.⁵⁶

Number of Drug-Related Deaths, Phoenix, 1998-2001*

Drug	1998	1999	2000	2001*
Cocaine	87	215	167	43
Morphine	90	106	137	47
Cocaine/morphine combination	65	55	54	23
Methadone combination	26	43	37	8
Methamphetamine	51	75	105	49
Propoxyphene/other narcotics	20	57	70	14
Barbiturates/benzodiazepines/other	52	41	77	12

^{* 2001} data is for January to May only

➤ During 2001, there were 453 drug-related deaths reported to DAWN by Medical Examiners (ME) in the Phoenix area. Cocaine was mentioned 175 times in the drug-related deaths.⁵⁷

Number of Drug Abuse Deaths and Drug Mentions, Phoenix Area*, 1997-2001

Drug Type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Alcohol-in-combination	73	159	259	236	173
Cocaine	98	174	236	213	175
Heroin/morphine	106	171	177	181	140
Marijuana			3	8	1
Amphetamine	17	47	72	78	107
Methamphetamine	34	60	94	109	122
Club drugs	1		6	6	1
Hallucinogens		1	1	4	4
Inhalants	3	2	7	1	
Narcotic analgesics	110	200	291	318	261
Other analgesics	12	23	15	26	26
Benzodiazepines	50	90	95	104	80
Antidepressants	96	135	223	242	168
All other substances	192	302	484	452	320
Total drug deaths	240	389	561	587	453
Total drug mentions	792	1,364	1,963	1,978	1,578

^{*} From 1997-1999, Maricopa and Pinal Counties both provided data to DAWN. In 2000 and 2001, only Maricopa County supplied data.

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: http://www.census.gov

² Phoenix Mayor Web site: http://www.ci.phoenix.az.us/CITYGOV/mayoridx.html

³ Phoenix City Council Web site: http://www.ci.phoenix.az.us/CITYGOV/cnclist.html

⁴ Phoenix Police Department Web site: http://www.ci.phoenix.az.us/POLICE/index.html

⁵ Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Web site: http://www.mcso.org/index.asp

⁶ Office of National Drug Control Policy, Southwest Border High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area/Arizona Partnership Web site: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_az.html

⁷ Phoenix Police Department, Crime Free Multi-Housing Program Web site:

http://www.ci.phoenix.az.us/POLICE/cfmhp1.html

⁸ Phoenix Police Department, Drug Enforcement Bureau Web site:

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¹⁰ Executive Office for Weed and Seed Data Center, Arizona section:

http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/arizona.html

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¹³ Bureau of Justice Assistance Web site, FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grants: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/DrugCourts/02DCgrants.htm

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